6) Washed with 250ml buffer B'
7) Washed with 250ml buffer A'
8) Eluted with 250ml 75mM Imidazole
9) Eluted with 250ml 150mM Imidazole (150-1)
10) Eluted with 250ml 150mM Imidazole (150-2)
11) Eluted with 250ml 300mM Imidazole (300-1)
12) Eluted with 250ml 300mM Imidazole (300-2)
13) Eluted with 250ml 300mM Imidazole (300-3)

Chromatography Results:

The rHuAsp eluted at 75mM Imidazole through 300mM Imidazole. The 75mM fraction, as well as the first 150mM Imidazole (150-1) fraction contained contaminating proteins as visualized on Coomassie Blue stained gels. Therefore, fractions 150-2 and 300-1 will be utilized for refolding experiments since they contained the greatest amount of protein (see Coomassie Blue stained gel).

Refolding Experiments of rHuAsp2L:

Experiment 1:

Forty ml of 150-2 was spiked with 1M DTT, 3M Tris, pH 7.4 and DEA to a final concentration of 6mM, 50mM, and 0.1% respectively. This was diluted suddenly (while stirring) with 200ml of (4°C) cold 20mM NaP, pH 6.8, 150mM NaCl. This dilution gave a final Urea concentration of 1M. This solution remained clear, even if allowed to set open to the air at RT or at 4°C .

After setting open to the air for 4-5 hours at 4°C, this solution was then dialyzed overnight against 20mM NaP, pH 7.4, 150mM NaCl, 20% glycerol. This method effectively removes the urea in the solution without precipitation of the protein.

Experiment 2:

Some of the 150-2 eluate was concentrated 2x on an Amicon Centriprep, 10,000 MWCO, then treated as in Experiment 1. This material also stayed in solution, with no visible precipitation.

Experiment 3:

89ml of the 150-2 eluate was spiked with 1M DTT, 3M Tris, pH 7.4 and DEA to a final concentration of 6mM, 50mM, and 0.1% respectively. This was diluted suddenly (while stirring) with 445ml of (4°C) cold 20mM NaP, pH 6.8, 150mM NaCl. This solution appeared clear, with no apparent precipitation. The solution was removed to RT and stirred for 10 minutes prior to adding MEA to a final concentration of 0.1mM This was stirred slowly at RT for 1hr. Cystamine and $CuSO_4$ were then added to final concentrations of 1mM and 10μM respectively. The solution was stirred slowly at RT for 10 minutes prior to being moved to the 4°C cold room and shaken slowly overnight, open to the air.

The following day, the solution (still clear, with no apparent precipitation) was centrifuged at 100,000 x *g* for 1 hour. Supernatants from multiple runs were pooled, and the bulk of the stabilized protein was dialyzed against 20mM NaP, pH 7.4, 150mM NaCl, 20% glycerol. After dialysis, the material was stored at -20°C.

Some (about 10ml) of the protein solution (still in 1M Urea) was saved back for biochemical analyses, and frozen at -20°C for storage.

Example 10. Expression of Hu-Asp2 and Derivatives in Insect Cells

Expression by baculovirus infection—The coding sequence of Hu-Asp2 and several derivatives were engineered for expression in insect cells using the PCR. For the full-length sequence, a 5'-sense oligonucleotide primer that modified the translation initiation site to fit the Kozak consensus sequence was paired with a 3'-antisense primer that contains the natural translation termination codon in the Hu-Asp2 sequence. PCR amplification of the pcDNA3.1(hygro)/Hu-Asp2 template (see Example 12). Two derivatives of Hu-Asp2 that delete the C-terminal transmembrane domain (SEQ ID No 29 and No. 30) or delete the transmembrane domain and introduce a hexa-histidine tag at the C-terminus (SEQ ID No. 31 and No 32) were also engineered using the PCR. The same 5'-sense oligonucleotide primer described above was paired with either a 3'-antisense primer that (1) introduced a translation termination codon after codon 453 (SEQ ID No. 3) or (2) incorporated a hexa-histidine tag followed by a translation termination codon in the PCR using pcDNA3.1(hygro)/Hu_Asp-2L as the template. In all cases, the PCR reactions were performed amplified for 15 cycles using *Pwo*I DNA polymerase (Boehringer-Mannheim) as outlined by the supplier. The reaction products were digested to completion with *BamH*I and *Not*I and ligated to *BamH*I and *Not*I digested baculovirus transfer vector pVL1393 (Invitrogen). A portion of the ligations was used to transform competent *E. coli* DH5α cells

followed by antibiotic selection on LB-Amp. Plasmid DNA was prepared by standard alkaline lysis and banding in CsCl to yield the baculovirus transfer vectors pVL1393/Asp2, pVL1393/Asp2ΔTM and pVL1393/Asp2ΔTM(His)$_6$. Creation of recombinant baculoviruses and infection of sf9 insect cells was performed using standard methods.

Expression by transfection—Transient and stable expression of Hu-Asp2ΔTM and *Hu-Asp2ΔTM(His)$_6$* in High 5 insect cells was performed using the insect expression vector pIZ/V5-His. The DNA inserts from the expression plasmids vectors pVL1393/Asp2, pVL1393/Asp2ΔTM and pVL1393/Asp2ΔTM(His)$_6$ were excised by double digestion with *BamHI* and *NotI* and subcloned into *BamHI* and *NotI* digested pIZ/V5-His using standard methods. The resulting expression plasmids, referred to as pIZ/Hu-Asp2ΔTM and pIZ/Hu-Asp2ΔTM(His)$_6$, were prepared as described above.

For transfection, High 5 insect cells were cultured in High Five serum free medium supplemented with 10 μg/ml gentamycin at 27°C in sealed flasks. Transfections were performed using High five cells, High five serum free media supplemented with 10 μg/ml gentamycin, and InsectinPlus liposomes (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) using standard methods.

For large scale transient transfections 1.2 x 10^7 high five cells were plated in a 150 mm tissue culture dish and allowed to attach at room temperature for 15-30 minutes. During the attachment time the DNA/ liposome mixture was prepared by mixing 6 ml of serum free media, 60 μg Asp2ΔTM/pIZ (+/- His) DNA and 120 μl of Insectin Plus and incubating at room temperature for 15 minutes. The plating media was removed from the dish of cells and replaced with the DNA/liposome mixture for 4 hours at room temperature with constant rocking at 2 rpm. An additional 6 ml of media was added to the dish prior to incubation for 4 days at 27 °C in a humid incubator Four days post transfection the media was harvested, clarified by centrifugation at 500 x g, assayed for Asp2 expression by Western blotting. For stable expression, the cells were treated with 50 μg/ml Zeocin and the surviving pool used to prepared clonal cells by limiting dilution followed by analysis of the expression level as noted above.

Purification of Hu-Asp2ΔTM and Hu-Asp2ΔTM(His)$_6$—Removal of the transmembrane segment from Hu-Asp2 resulted in the secretion of the polypeptide into the culture medium. Following protein production by either baculovirus infection or transfection, the conditioned medium was harvested, clarified by centrifugation, and dialyzed against Tris-HCl (pH 8.0). This material was then purified by sucessive